

HUD FLASH

Covering Eastern Washington Communities



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Spokane Field Office -- Region X

www.hud.gov

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Never measure an agency's success by the number of programs it runs or dollars secured. Instead, measure success by the number of people served, and the number of families that are living better, more fulfilling lives today because they were helped.



Kennewick Receives HUD Single Family Revitalization Area Designation



Recently HUD announced that several neighborhoods in the downtown area of Kennewick have been designated as a Single Family Revitalization area. Revitalization areas are HUD-designated neighborhoods in need of economic and community development and where there is a strong commitment by the local governments. Revitalization Areas are the basis for HUD's Good Neighbor Next Door Program and the Direct Sales Program for Nonprofit agencies and Municipalities.

The **Good Neighbor Next Door Program** offers a discount on HUD foreclosed homes or REO's (Real Estate Owned), located in the revitalization zones, to **police officers, teachers, firefighters and EMT's**, with the goal to encourage these valuable professional public servants to become homeowners in low and moderate-income neighborhoods. HUD wants to make American communities stronger and help to build a safer nation. Public safety improves when police, firefighters and emergency medical technicians live in a neighborhood contributing their expertise and knowledge to the betterment of the community.

In the **Direct Sales Program for Nonprofit Agencies and Municipalities**, HUD offers **community and faith-based nonprofit organizations** the opportunity to purchase HUD foreclosed homes at discounts of up to 30 percent off the appraised value. With this discount, local nonprofit organizations invest in property rehabilitation and resell to first-time homebuyers and low- and

moderate-income families. HUD also offers nonprofit agencies favorable FHA insured mortgage financing terms and opportunities for down payment assistance programs.

If you want to know more about these programs, please contact the Eastern Washington HUD Field Office at 509-368-3200. If you want to see what HUD homes are available for sale in your area, go to <http://www.hmbireo.com/washington.php>.

ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World



The ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World Campaign is a national call-to-action to encourage individuals to help change the world, one light — one energy-saving step — at a time. The Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, and Department of Housing and Urban Development are pleased to partner to sponsor the Campaign this year.

Part of this year's campaign is to encourage you to take the online ENERGY STAR Change a Light Pledge. By doing this, you pledge to “do my part to save energy and help reduce the risks of global climate change by replacing at least one light in my home with an ENERGY STAR qualified one.” To give you a sense of how the energy and environmental savings can add up, individuals who pledged to change a light in 2005 alone have the potential to save more than \$2 million in energy costs and prevent more than 33 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions!

This October 4th will mark the second annual ENERGY STAR Change a Light Day, and hundreds of organizations will announce their pledge progress at that time. Please join us now in taking the pledge. It's a simple commitment that will go a long way to assure that the energy resources we rely on and the environment we live in are preserved for generations to come. If you would like to take part of this campaign to save energy, go to

<http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=cal.showPledge> to make a pledge. It is a very short form and takes only a few minutes of your time.

Quick Energy Saving Tips:

To save the most energy and money, replace your highest used fixtures or the light bulbs in them with energy-efficient models. The 5 highest use fixtures in a home are typically the kitchen ceiling light, the living room table and floor lamps, bathroom vanity, and outdoor porch or post lamp. If every American home changed out just 5 high-use light fixtures or the bulbs in them with ones that have earned the ENERGY STAR, each family would save more than \$60 every year in energy costs, and together we'd keep more than one trillion pounds of greenhouse gases out of our air — equal to the emissions of 8 million cars. That's a \$6 billion energy savings for Americans, equivalent to the annual output of more than 21 power plants.

Spokane's Housing Locator

As you are referring clients to affordable housing, please remember Spokane's Housing Locator. You can locate vacant, affordable housing database at www.onestophousing.org. It is a wonderful resource for low-income individuals and families who are looking for affordable housing. Within the website information can be found on:

- **Availability** (Find out if available today, in one week, two weeks, a month, etc.)
- **Location** (City of Spokane, Deer Park, Cheney, Airway Heights, etc.)
- **Unit Size** (Bedroom Size)
- **Rent Amount**

Numbers and websites of the property landlords are posted for ease of obtaining an application.

Want to keep up with changes at HUD? Want to know when grant funds are available, or new policies are implemented? Then the Region X Newsletter is for you! Once per month you'll get a brief, yet informative, email from our Regional Office highlighting important happenings at HUD, both here in the Northwest and throughout the country.

Subscribe today! Go to:

<http://www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup.cfm?listname=Region%20X%20Newsletter&list=REGION-X-NEWSLETTER-L>

<p>All questions, comments and suggestions for future newsletters can be directed to Kim McCollim, 509-368-3203 or email at kim_mccollim@hud.gov. Please notify us if your email address changes or you wish to be deleted from the distribution list.</p>
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